S-0061.1

## SENATE BILL 5050

**State of Washington**        **69th Legislature**        **2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators J. Wilson, Christian, McCune, Schoesler, Holy, Dozier, Short, Torres, Chapman, and Fortunato

Prefiled 12/13/24.  Read first time 01/13/25.  Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1     AN ACT Relating to maintaining the privacy of party selections
2 during presidential primaries; adding a new section to chapter 29A.56
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5     NEW  SECTION.   **Sec.  1.**   The  legislature  finds  that  every
6 presidential primary election, voters contact legislators, auditors,
7 and other government officials with concerns about the visibility of
8 their party preference selections on the outside of presidential
9 primary ballot envelopes. Often, the concern is that just by seeing
10 the party preference, an outside observer would know that voter's
11 presidential candidate vote. The legislature further finds that in
12 order to protect the secrecy of the ballot, a party preference
13 selection must be kept as secret as any other part of the ballot.

14     NEW SECTION.  **Sec. 2.**  A new section is added to chapter 29A.56
15 RCW to read as follows:
16     Where a voter is required to make a political party declaration
17 on a ballot or ballot envelope:
18     (1) That declaration must be placed such that the ballot envelope
19 must be opened in order for anyone to see the declaration; and

1    (2) The ballot envelope must include a prominently placed
2  reminder to the voter that a political party declaration is required
3  for the ballot to be counted.

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